Serial No. 09/163,977

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to further prosecution of this application by placing same in better form. The specification has been amended and a new abstract, substituted for the original, is provided. Claims 1 through 26 are pending, claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16, and 18-25 have been amended, and claims 26-29 have been newly added. Further, support for new claims 26-29 is found in the application as filed.

In addition, a Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings is filed concurrently herewith to correct typographical errors and provide improved correlation with the specification.

No new matter is presented in this Preliminary Amendment.

The specification and claims have been amended to improve their form.

Accordingly, entry of this Preliminary Amendment and favorable examination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY

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